

Applic. No. 10/608,607

Amdt. dated December 22, 2004

Reply to Office action of June 23, 2004

Claim Amendments

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for drying items of clothing, which comprises:

providing an item of clothing;

providing at least one gas nozzle for supplying a jet of a gas;

moving said at least one gas nozzle and the clothing item relative to one another; and

impacting the jet of gas on at least one portion the clothing item in a direction not parallel to the at least one portion of the clothing item for dehumidifying the at least one portion of the clothing item.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, which further comprises supporting the clothing item from a side of the clothing item opposite the at least one gas nozzle.

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Claim 3 (original): The method according to claim 2, which further comprises supporting the clothing item with a supporting surface.

Claim 4 (original): The method according to claim 2, which further comprises supporting the clothing item with an air-permeable supporting surface.

Claim 5 (original): The method according to claim 3, which further comprises disposing the clothing item between two air-permeable surfaces.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The method according to claim 2, which further comprises supporting the clothing item by a jet of gas.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The method according to claim 6, which further comprises exerting jets of gas from gas nozzles on both sides of the clothing item in a direction of each other having a total force on the clothing item equal in magnitude.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The method according to claim 6, which further comprises:

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providing at least two gas nozzles disposed on opposite sides of the clothing item and facing one another; and

directing jets of gas on both sides of the clothing item with a total force on the clothing item being equal in magnitude.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The method according to claim 6, which further comprises exerting jets of gas from gas nozzles on both sides of the clothing item in a direction of each other on sections of the clothing item with one of the gas nozzles having a higher force than another one of the gas nozzles.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The method according to claim 6, which further comprises exerting jets of gas from gas nozzles on both sides of the clothing item in a direction of each other on sections of the clothing item with the gas nozzles having substantially the same force on both sides.

Claim 11 (cancelled).

Claim 12 (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, which further comprises providing the at least one gas nozzle with heated gas.

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Claim 13 (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein the jet of gas contains heated gas.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, which further comprises providing the at least one gas nozzle with water vapor.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein the jet of gas contains water vapor.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, which further comprises, at an end of the drying step, heating the gas nozzle to calender the clothing item initially with substantially dry and heated air and then with substantially dry and non-heated air.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, which further comprises varying at least one of an outflow speed, a volume flow, and a directional distribution of the at least one jet of gas while drying the clothing item.

Claim 18 (currently amended): A method for drying items of clothing, which comprises:

providing an item of clothing;

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providing at least one gas nozzle for supplying a jet of a
gas;

moving said at least one gas nozzle and the clothing item
relative to one another; and

impacting the jet of gas on at least one portion of the
clothing item at an angle different from zero to the at least
one portion or the clothing item for dehumidifying the at
least one portion of the clothing item.

Claim 19 (original): A method for drying items of clothing,
which comprises:

providing an item of clothing;

providing at least one gas jet for supplying a stream of a
gas;

drying the clothing item at least in one portion thereof with
the gas stream in a direction not parallel to the one portion;

supporting the clothing item from a side of the clothing item
opposite the at least one gas jet;

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supporting the clothing item by exerting gas streams from gas jets on both sides of the clothing item in a direction of each other;

moving the at least one gas jet and the clothing item relative to one another;

providing the at least one gas jet with at least one of heated gas and water vapor;

at an end of the drying step, heating the gas jet to calender the clothing item initially with substantially dry and heated air and then with substantially dry and non-heated air; and

varying at least one of an outflow speed, a volume flow, and a directional distribution of the at least one gas jet while drying the clothing item.

Claim 20 (currently amended): An apparatus for drying items of clothing, comprising:

a housing defining a treatment space;

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devices disposed in said housing for disposing items of
clothing within said treatment space;

a blower disposed at said housing for producing a gas flow;
and

nozzles disposed in said housing and communicating with said
blower, said nozzles being aligned to impact a jet of gas of
the gas flow produced by said blower on at least one portion
of an item of clothing in said treatment space in a direction
not parallel to the at least one portion of the clothing, and
said gas nozzle and the clothing item being moveable relative
to one another for dehumidifying the at least one portion of
the clothing item.

Claims 21 and 22 (cancelled).